

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SIG-02 MMO-04 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-07
NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04
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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
XMT AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
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E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: IA-ECOSOC, OAS, EGEN

SUBJECT: TWELFTH IA-ECOSOC MINISTERIAL MEETING

1. TWELFTH ANNUAL MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING OF INTER-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL WILL TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON APRIL 11-16. MEETING THUS COINCIDES WITH PAN AMERICAN WEEK, AND ENCOMPASSES SPEECH PRESIDENT CARTER WILL MAKE TO OAS APRIL 14, PAN AMERICAN DAY. TIMING OF MEETING AND PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH PURELY COINCIDENTAL; ONE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE OTHER.

2. DESPITE OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF IA-ECOSOC AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, IN RECENT YEARS VERY FEW MINISTERS HAVE ACTUALLY ATTENDED. USUALLY SEVERAL COUNTRIES SEND VICE MINISTERS OF FINANCE OR OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, AND OTHERS
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ARE CONTENT TO BE REPRESENTED BY THEIR AMBASSADORS TO THE OAS. U.S. DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, CONTINUING NORMAL PATTERN OF U.S. REPRESENTATION FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

3. AGENDA FOR MEETING SEEMS UNEXCEPTIONAL. ITEMS ON TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND L.A. AND ON PROSPECTS

FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE LIKELY
TO PROVOKE MOST INTERESTING DISCUSSIONS OF THE MEETING.

A THIRD AGENDA ITEM OF INTEREST CONCERNS PREPARATIONS
FOR THE SPECIAL OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON COOPERATION FOR
DEVELOPMENT; PREPARATIONS TO DATE HAVE BEEN PERFUNCTORY
AT BEST BUT THERE ARE SIGNS OF POSSIBLE REAWAKENING
INTEREST.

4. MEETING CAN ACCOMPLISH LITTLE WITH REGARD TO OAS
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AREA BECAUSE
PROGRAM AND BUDGET PROCESS FOR THESE PROGRAMS JUST BE-
GINNING.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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